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quick facts on...

Facility Water Use Assessment

JANUARY 2009

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

A facility water use assessment is a structured evaluation that can reveal ways in which water consumption can be reduced through increased efficiency, as well as the most appropriate and cost-effective conservation measures for that facility.

This type of assessment can be conducted for any water user, but nonresidential sites may benefit most. Institutional, commercial and industrial (ICI) facilities consume 20 percent of the public water supply and constitute only 8 percent of the consumer base, suggesting that investments in conservation at ICI facilities have high potential for additional savings and cost-effectiveness.



Water Savings

One large utility in South Florida recently conducted a facility water use assessment program reaching 36 ICI facilities. These assessments inventoried all water uses except those associated with cooling towers.

The estimated average water savings resulting from simple same-day, fix-it measures (leak repair, etc.) uncovered during the water assessments was 1,000 gallons per day (0.365 million gallons per year) per account. If all the recommendations outlined in the assessments were implemented, the potential estimated water savings averaged nearly 500,000 gallons per year per facility.

A retrofit program including a water use assessment of targeted facilities is likely to be cost-effective, yield significant water savings and possibly be eligible for support from the South Florida Water Management District.

Costs

By utilizing any of the various online resources, an individual ICI owner or manager may elect to perform their own water use assessment independently. However, it is recommended that a conservation professional be consulted to appropriately identify all uses of water, uncover leaks, provide specific recommendations for increased water use efficiency and estimate potential cost savings from the implementation of these and other conservation measures.

Check with your local utility, as it may offer grants to help pay for ICI facility water use assessments or provide free water use assessments as part of its local conservation program. Otherwise, depending on facility size, a full ICI facility water use assessment conducted by a licensed professional may range from approximately \$1,000 to \$5,000 per account.

How the South Florida Water Management District Can Help

Through the Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP), the South Florida Water Management District provides matching funds up to \$75,000 to water providers and users for installing water-saving technologies, such as high-efficiency plumbing fixtures, rain and soil moisture sensors and fire hydrant flushing devices. Potential applicants include cities, public utilities and water providers, homeowners associations, schools, hospitals and industrial/commercial facilities. Individual residences are not eligible.

Since its inception in 2003, WaterSIP has allocated more than \$3.4 million to dozens of public and private entities across the District's 16 counties, resulting in an estimated water savings of more than 2.1 billion gallons per year. The program is based on cost-sharing. Entities seeking funding must be able to match at least 50 percent of the total costs for the project, either with matching funds or in-kind services. Up to 100 percent funding is available to Rural Economic Development Initiative communities.

Indoor water conservation items other than those cited above will be considered for funding support under the WaterSIP program. In addition, indoor water use assessments conducted by a professional auditor may be considered for support under WaterSIP if part of a retrofit program.

Applications for WaterSIP are posted annually in February. Check the WaterSIP Web site for details on the program and application process. To learn more about WaterSIP, please contact Robert Wanvestraut, SFWMD Senior Conservation Officer, at rwinvest@sfwmd.gov or 561-682-2054. You may also visit us online at www.sfwmd.gov. Choose Water Conservation at the left of the screen, next click "What We're Doing" and then select **WaterSIP Program – Find out more.**



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 Broward
 954-713-3200
 Florida Keys (Plantation Key)
 305-853-3219 or 800-464-5067
 Lower West Coast
 239-338-2929 or 800-248-1201

Martin/St. Lucie
 772-223-2600 or 800-250-4100
 Miami-Dade
 305-377-7274 or 800-250-4300
 Okeechobee
 863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200
 Orlando
 407-858-6100 or 800-250-4250
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